

Eddie J. Abernathy Info Sheet

Name of Soldier: Eddie J. Abernathy

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Home State: Virginia

County/Town: Nottoway County

Enlisted City: Nottoway County

Serial Number: 335252555

Family Numbers: Father; Eddie Wilson Abernathy, Mother; Ethel Mary Elizabeth, Siblings; Rufus Jordan B Major, Mildred A Hogsett, Gertrude A. Abernathy Milton, Wilson Joseph Abernathy, Anna A. Abernathy Baldwin, Garland Lightfoot Abernathy, James W. Abernathy.

Education: Grammar School

Job Prior to Entering Military Service: N/A

Birthdate or Birthyear: 1924

Date of Death: November 30th, 1943

Age when Died: 19 years old

Awards: Purple Heart Award, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, WW2 Medal.



Honorable soldier, Eddie J. Abernathy had seven siblings and two parents but found himself separated from them at a very young age. Eddie was very independent and joined the United States Army at the young age of 18, in 1942. In April of that same year, the United States were facing a heavy assault from the Japanese forces so to be specific, Eddie was most likely drafted in late March or early April 1942. He was immediately sent off to battle and even though his military career was not long it was hard-fought.

We know that Eddie was an infantryman because he won the CIB. Infantrymen were known as the backbone of the Army, they operated under the worst conditions and they defended our country from ground threats by capturing, abolishing and blocking. Eddie fought throughout 1942 and passed away the next year, November 30th, 1943.

This brave soldier lays peacefully at grave H49 in the Sicily- Rome American Cemetery and Memorial because he was one of the many soldiers who died in the campaign, that began in Sicily, to liberate Rome. Eddie also received a Purple Heart Award for his dedication towards his country, a dedication shown by putting his life on the line for his home and that of many others. Eddie was a very respectable man who fought with great pride to protect his homeland and loved ones.

Thoughts Prior to Cemetery Visit

Prior to visiting his grave, we had mixed feelings, it is difficult to pay homage to someone who passed away so young. We will stand at his final resting place and lay flowers and an America flag at his feet. We will say a prayer and thank God for giving us such a kind and brave soul to fight for us and our freedom. We will say the pledge of allegiance in honor of the time he served as we believe it is the best way to commend this fallen soldier.

Thoughts After My Visit to the Cemetery

After visiting the cemetery, we left with a sense of true pride and amazement. We arrived on the day after the elections, and for the first time in months we got to see an American flag waving through the air. What really struck us was how perfect the scenery was, with the blue sky, clear weather and the marble crosses. It was truly a beautiful and yet terrible sight.

As we were walking through the grave yard something the guide said really struck us:” Imagine getting a letter home rather than your loved one”. That was when I really understood the loss and the reality if war. We truly hope that with our gifts and humble homages we can keep alive the memory of these courageous soldiers, whose lives were cut short by the rage of war.